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More coins were struck off by the United States Mint during the calendar year 1940 than in any previous year in its history, Nellie Tayloe Ross, Director of the Mint, announced today. A new high production record of 1,209,478,982 coins was established by the three mints during that period, as compared with the previous record of 738,742,000 coins produced during the year 1919 and 674,089,105 coins struck off during the calendar year 1939.

The value of the 1940 output was $50,157,850.32, while the 1939 valuation was $38,289,169.80. During 1940, 781,155,872 pennies were produced, which exceeds the previous record for combined coinage in 1919.

Production during the calendar years 1939 and 1940, by denominations and pieces, was:

	1939	1940
Halves	13,655,934	13,717,279
Quarters	43,268,795	46,756,846
Dimes	102,683,321	108,119,827
Nickels.....	130,771,535	259,729,158
Cents	383,709,520	781,155,872
Total	674,089,105	1,209,478,982

Mrs. Ross said that the three mints located at Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco had worked at top speed on a 24-hour-a-day basis during the greater part of 1940 in an effort to cope with the demand for new coins. She attributed the heavy demand to varying factors, such as an increased volume of retail business, the new defense taxes, state sales taxes, and the increasing use of slot machine devices.

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